

Remarks/Arguments

The Office Action of July 2, 2003 and the references cited therein have been carefully studied and reviewed, and in view of the foregoing Amendment and following representations, reconsideration is respectfully requested.

At the outset, the indication by the Examiner of the allowability of the subject matter of original claims 2 and 3 is hereby kindly acknowledged.

Next, concerning the objection to the drawings under 37 CFR 1.83(a) in par. 2 of the Office Action, every feature recited in the new claims is shown in the drawings. That is, it is believed the Applicants' new claims render this objection to the drawings moot.

Concerning the objection to the drawings under 37 CFR 1.83(a) in par. 3 of the Office Action, it is respectfully submitted that a **detailed** illustration of the disclosed ability of the clutch 11a and marangoni dryer 23 to additionally move along the direction of the Y-axis (FIG. 1) is not essential for a proper understanding of the present invention, as such multi-axis drive mechanisms are well known per se and easily comprehensible by those of ordinary skill in the art. Accordingly, a graphical drawing symbol, i.e., the double-headed arrows used in the foregoing amendment to FIG. 1, is appropriate according to 37 CFR 1.83(a). In light of the amendments to FIG. 1, it is respectfully requested that this objection to the drawings be withdrawn.

Finally, concerning the objection to the drawings in par. 4 of the Office Action, formal drawings are being submitted herewith to replace the drawings currently on file. These drawings are clearly the originals for the drawings filed with the application and as such, they do not introduce new matter into the application. Moreover, these original formal drawings clearly show the results described in par. [0045] of Applicants' original specification. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the submission of the substitute sheet of drawings for FIGS. 12A and 12B overcomes the objection raised in par. 4 of the Office Action.

Turning to the rejection of the claims under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, Applicants' new claims clearly establish the X-Y-Z directions shown in FIG. 1, by (1) reciting X- and Y- axes as being perpendicular to each other in a horizontal plane, (2) reciting a Z-axis as a vertical axis orthogonal to the X and Y axes, and (3) by referencing respective movements of the claimed elements relative to these axes. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the rejection of the claims under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, be withdrawn.

Finally, new independent claim 21 basically corresponds to a combination of original claims 1 and 2. Accordingly, claim 21 is seen to be allowable over the references of record for the same reasons that the Examiner did not reject original claim 2 under prior art.

For the foregoing reasons as to why Applicants new claims are allowable of the art of record, and as to why the formal matters raised by the Examiner have been overcome or rendered moot, it is seen the that foregoing Amendment places the application in clear condition for allowance. Accordingly, early reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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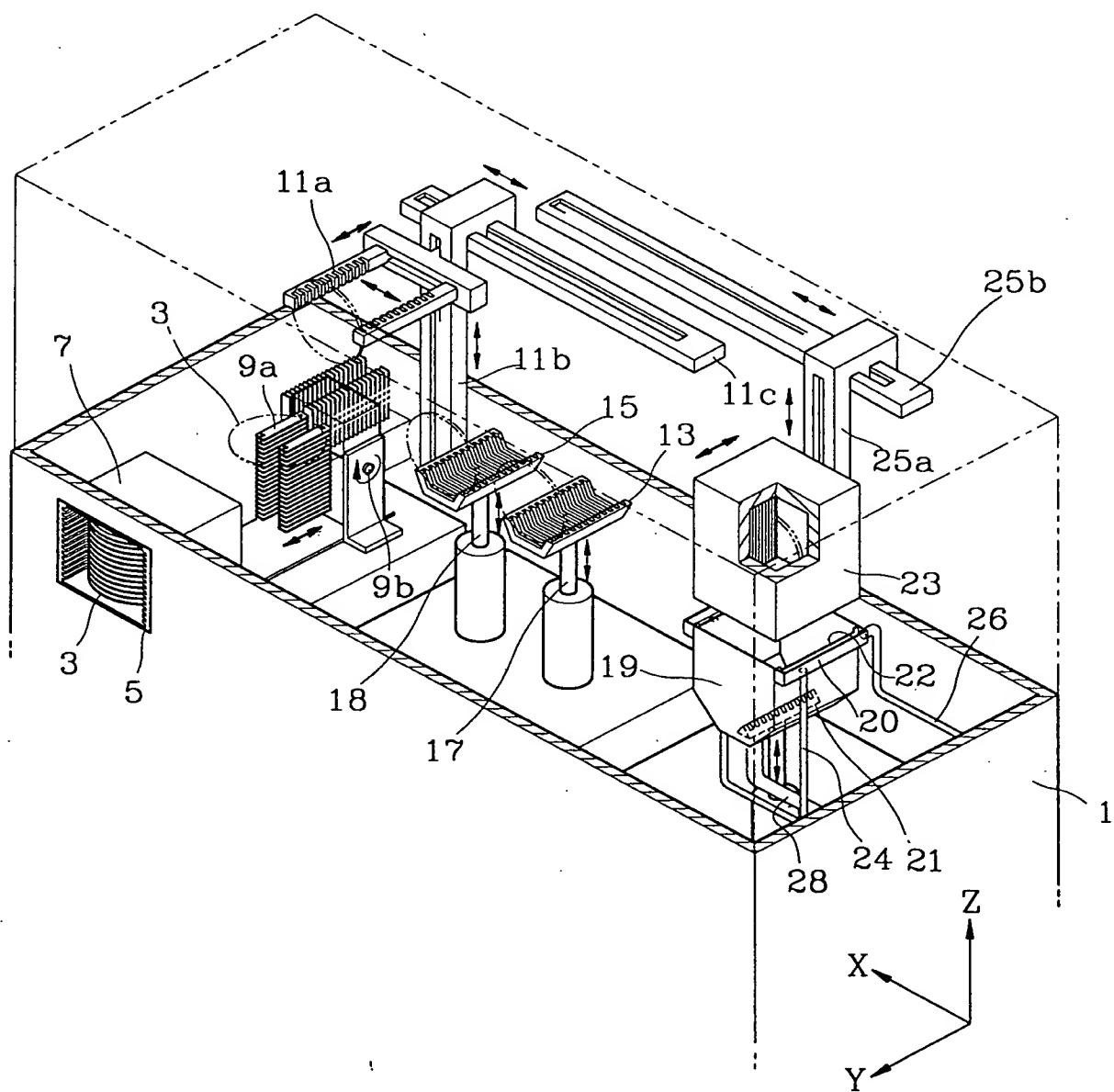
Date: October 21, 2003



Serial No. 09/832,330
SEC.850
Amendment dated October 21, 2003

REPLACEMENT SHEET

FIG. 1



Serial No. 09/832,330
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REPLACEMENT SHEET

FIG. 12A

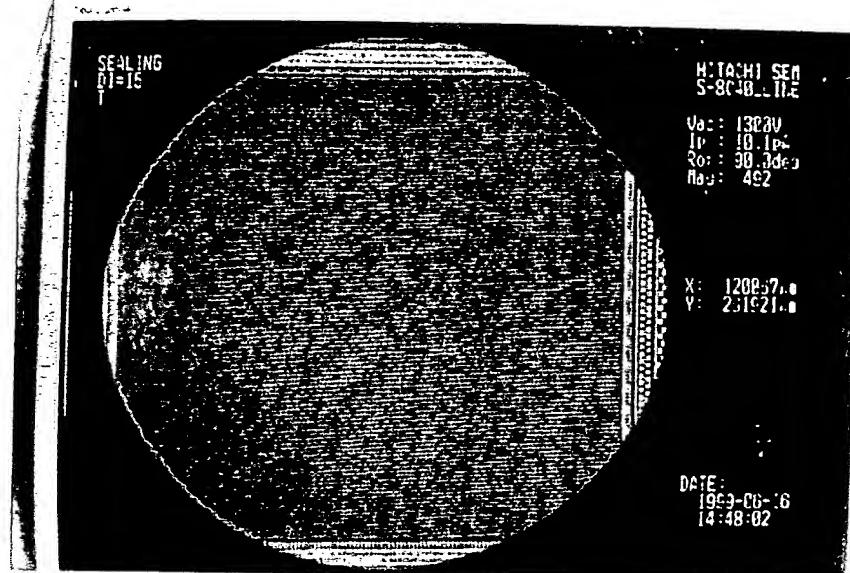


FIG. 12B

